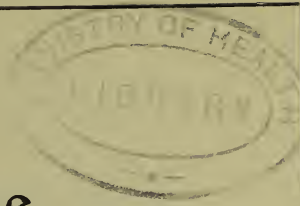


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Cerne
Rural District Council



Annual Report

by the

Medical Officer of Health,

E. E. DALTON.



1925.

To the

CERNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to hand you my Report upon the conditions of Health and Vital Statistics of your District, for the year ending 31st December, 1925. In it is embodied a short survey with statistics of the general conditions of the district for the past five years.

AREA.

The Area of the District (land and water) was 46,741 acres.

POPULATION.

This, according to the Census of 1921 was 4,466; but my statistics of Births and Deaths, etc., for 1925, are taken on a population of 4,458, as given me by the Registrar General. The average population of the District for the past 5 years was 4,486.6.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The portion of the District to the South and South-west sides is hilly, and consists of chalk, with a covering of gravel and thin loam, the valleys having a covering of black earth.

The North and North-east portion of the District is mostly Vale land, of a clay nature.

The Vale lands are about 300 to 400 feet above sea level, while in the hilly districts many of the hills run up to over 700 feet.

CLIMATE.

Temperate and bracing, and shares in the favourable weather conditions of the County generally.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Main industry is Agriculture, and the conditions of life are those of the farming classes.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Wells and springs are the main supplies; and all of these have been very fairly good, both in quality and quantity during the year.

The Parishes of Batcombe, Buckland Newton, Hermitage, Melbury, Minterne, Nether Cerne and Wootton Glanvilles, have piped supplies.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Most of the larger villages are situated in the valleys, following the course of the streams. House waste and drainage from farm-yards, etc., is a possible source of pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is no definite system of drainage in any of the parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS FROM INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL.

1.—Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	93
2.—Number of houses inspected and recorded (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	21
3.—Number of houses found unfit for habitation ...	—
4.—Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21
5.—Remedy of defects without formal notices ...	19
6.—Number of houses in respect of which formal notices were served	2
7.—Number of houses in which formal notices were served and defects remedied	1
8.—One closing order was made, after proceedings had been taken, and order refused by the Magistrates	
9.—Two houses were found to be seriously overcrowded, but the nuisance was remedied without the necessity of serving a formal notice.	

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Milksellers on the Register	...	...	...	...	109
Number of above added to register during current year					8
Number of Inspections during the year (about)	...				55
Number of informal Notices served	...	...			7
Number complied with	...	...	...		7
Number of formal Notices served	...	...	...		—

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of the Schools and School Premises have been good and their water supply satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Satisfactory; cattle are mostly out in the open fields.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been in good repair and all the conditions satisfactory.

There are no underground bakehouses.

Owners are always willing to carry out any instructions, as to cleaning, etc., as given them.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have, in all cases, been found satisfactory, when inspected.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Satisfactory in every respect.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

No samples taken were found adulterated or had to be condemned.

HOUSING.

There is some slight general improvement in the condition of the cottages, but there are still many old and in bad repair. It is, however, quite impossible to take more active action in the matter until their replacement by modern dwellings is more advanced.

During the past five years, under the various "Housing Scheme" Acts, ten new houses have been erected at Henley, in the Parish of Buckland Newton, and one other. The former under the "Housing (Assisted) Scheme, 1919," and the latter under the "Housing, etc. Act, 1923."

Under the "Housing (Financial Provision) Act, 1924," your scheme for the erection of 16 houses is as follows:—

Cerne Abbas, 4; Piddletrenthide, 4; Cattistock, 2; Melbury Bubb, 2; Pulham, 2; Chesilbourne, 2.

Of these, the following are in course of erection:—
Piddletrenthide, 4; Pulham, 2; Cattistock, 2.

The Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890. "Building Bye-laws," are in the course of being made under this Act, by the Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Your staff consists of one Inspector and myself.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The Council are members of the "Clinical Research Association," of London. Specimens, etc., are sent to them for examination and report as required.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

For the year 1925, the following cases of Infectious Disease were reported to me, viz:—

Scarlet Fever	...	4
Erysipelas	...	1
Tubercular Disease	...	5

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH-RATE.

The number of births registered as belonging to the District was 82; 43 being males, and 39 females; of this number 81 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

This gives a birth-rate of 18.169 per 1,000 of the population, as compared to 15.9 of the previous year.

The rate for England and Wales was 18.3.

The average birth-rate for the last 5 years was 19.198 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATH-RATE.

During the year 49 persons died belonging to the District; 28 males and 21 females, giving a death-rate of 10.99 per 1,000 as against 17.7 of the previous year.

The average death-rate for past 5 years was 13.278.

The rate for England and Wales was 12.2 for 1925.

There was no death of an illegitimate child during the year.

Of those who died over 65 years of age, 23 were over 70 years; 8 were over 80; and 2 over 90 years of age.

The average age of death was 54.5 years, as compared with 52.3 of the previous year.

The average age at death, for the last 5 years, was 55.795.

The ages at which death occurred were as follows:—

1 and under	2 years of age	6
2 and under	5 years of age	0
5 and under	15 years of age	0
15 and under	25 years of age	2
25 and under	45 years of age	5
45 and under	65 years of age	9
Over 65 years of age	...	27
Total	...	49

INFANTILE DEATH-RATE.

There were six deaths of children under one year of age, giving a death-rate of 73.15 per 1,000 births, as compared with 83.3 of the previous year.

The average death-rate for the past 5 years was 61.834, under this heading.

Infantile death-rate for England and Wales was 75.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

There were no deaths under this classification during the year.

The causes of death as certified, were:—

Influenza	...	...	...	3
T.B. Diseases	Respiratory	...	...	4
	Other tubercular diseases	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage,	...	...	...	7
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	2
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	3
Violence	...	...	...	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	17
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1

I am, Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST E. DALTON,

Medical Officer of Health.